

State Natural Areas Schedule of Field Trips and Events 2007

November 3

Hike at Stillhouse Hollow Falls

Location: Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area, Summertown TN

Date: November 3, 2007

Time: 10 a.m.

Leader: Forrest Evans, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required: RSVP to Forrest Evans at (615) 532-0431 or E-mail at Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us

Description: Enjoy the fall colors and waterfall at one of our newest state natural areas. This is a short but steep hike down to the base of the falls and back up. We will also venture off-trail to a scenic viewpoint on the natural area. Bring water and sturdy footwear.

December 1

Pogue Creek State Natural Area All Terrain Hike and Trail Reconnaissance

Location: Pogue Creek State Natural Area. Meet at the Pickett State Park office for caravan to site.

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2007

Time: Meet at the Pickett State Park office at 9:00 a.m. Central Time

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Pickett CCC Memorial State Park

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by November 30th at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us.

Description: Pogue Creek is one of Tennessee's newest and most dramatic state natural areas. It is the wilderness of the north Cumberland at it's best. We will hike into Pogue Creek via Phillip Ridge and descend into the gorge from the end of that ridge. We will turn and go up into Pogue Creek proper following an old roadbed up to the site of a former schoolhouse. This area has a dramatic rock house and a "suck" where the creek goes underground into area caves. From here we'll have the option of exploring further up stream before crossing the creek and making our way back along the north side of the gorge before heading up the gorge wall, either the same way we came down, or by way of a bushwack. This trip is not for novice hikers or the unfit. The hike is off trail (no trails are developed into the area yet) and considered strenuous. The trip is limited to five guests by reservation only. Bring plenty of water, food, dress in layers, wear good boots. Don't forget your cameras. All hikers are advised to bring compasses, flashlights, and fire starting gear in the offhand event of any emergency. We will not go in the event of inclement weather.

PREVIOUS 2007 EVENTS

Jan 20

Savage Gulf, Stone Door to Greeter Falls

Location: Meet at the Nashville Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow

Date: January 20th, 2007

Time: 7:00 a.m. CST

Leader: Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage

Reservations required: RSVP by January 18th to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program. Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us

Description: Journey through the wintertime beauty of one of Tennessee's best-loved natural areas, the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. We will take the strenuous 10.6 mile Stone Door to Greeter Falls loop. This trail descends 600 feet into the gulf at the Great Stone Door and continues along the creek and climbs out as you go towards Greeter Falls. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult the weather reports before the trip. If the temperature is below freezing we may stay on the scenic Rim Trail and not descend into the gulf to avoid ice along the creek. Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch.

February 24

Late Winter Hike at Carroll Cabin State Natural Area

Location: Carroll Cabin State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2007

Time: Meet at the parking area at 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Chad Harden, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required: RSVP to Chad Harden at (731) 512-1369 or E-mail at Charles.Harden@state.tn.us

Description: Enjoy a moderate 2.5-mile hike along the hills and valleys of the west bank of the Tennessee River. Visit the Silurian limestone cedar glades and barrens and a scenic overlook across the Tennessee River. Bring water, snack, and appropriate footwear. We will not go in the event of inclement weather.

March 17

Spring Hike on House Mountain

Location: House Mountain State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2007

Time: Meet at the House Mountain parking area at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us by March 14th.

Description: Hike to the top of House Mountain via the West End Overlook Trail and back down the Mountain Trail, a total distance of about 3.5 miles. The first part of the hike is steep, but with many switchbacks. We'll take our time to rest as much as necessary to accommodate novice or part-time hikers. At the top, depending on the weather, we'll have great views of Knoxville, the Smokies, and the Cumberlands. Wear good footwear, dress in layers, bring plenty of water and a snack if you need one. The hike should take about 2.5 to 3.0 hours. We will not go in the event of inclement weather.

April 15 – 22

Natural Areas Week - April 15 – 22 (hikes, canoe floats, and programs)

- see natural areas website for a full schedule: www.tdec.net/na

May 19

Virgin Falls

Location: Meet at the Nashville Kroger store parking lot at 5544 Old Hickory Blvd, Hermitage near Summit Medical Center east of town.

Date: May 19, 2007

Time: 7:00 a.m. CST

Leader: Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage

Reservations required: RSVP by May 19th to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us

Description: Journey through the scenic beauty of one of Tennessee's best-loved hiking trails at Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We will take the strenuous 8-mile trail to the falls. This trail descends off of the Plateau, and meanders along the creek passing caves, sinks, and waterfalls. We will have lunch at the falls, which is remarkable due to the water pouring out of a cave mouth at the top of a bluff then falling over a hundred feet before being swallowed up by a sinkhole at the bottom. The trail then backtracks up and out of the gulf to the parking area. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult a weather report before the trip. Dress in layers, wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch.

June 2

National Trails Day June 2, 2007 For a list of events contact for East Tennessee - Lisa Huff at 865 594-5601 Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us Middle Tennessee - Forrest Evans 615 741- 9205

Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us West Tennessee – Chad Harden 731 512- 1369

Charles.Harden@state.tn.us

June 2

Native Grass Planting on the Murfreesboro Greenway

Location: Murfreesboro, TN, at Stones River National Battlefield at the General Bragg Headquarters Site. See <http://www.nps.gov/stri/> for directions and maps

(<http://www.nps.gov/stri/planyourvisit/maps.htm>)

Date: June 2, 2007

Time: 9-11:30 CDT

Leader: Please contact Rachel Anderson at the Murfreesboro Discovery Center for more information (615) 890-2300 randersondiscenter@comcast.net

Description: Help the National Park Service, Discovery Center, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas restore the Murfreesboro Greenway by planting native plants.

July 21

Canoe Float the Ghost River section of Wolf River

Location: Ghost River State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, July 21, 2007

Time: Meet at the LaGrange boat ramp at 9 a.m.

Leader: Chad Harden, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required: RSVP to Chad Harden at (731) 512-1369 or E-mail at

Charles.Harden@state.tn.us

Description: Cool off with a day trip on the "Ghost" section of the Wolf River and find out why it is named such. The trip is about a 5-hour float, so bring lunch, plenty to drink, and clothes that can get wet. Participants will also need to provide their own canoes/kayaks.

August 25

Picnic and Creek Play at Stinging Fork Falls

Location: Stinging Fork Falls State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2007

Time: 10 a.m. CT

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by August 23rd at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us.

Description: Cool off in the deep pocket wilderness of Stinging Fork Creek, play in the pool and creek with us and eat lunch at the falls. This hike is a short 3.0 miles round trip, but part of it is very steep. We'll take our time though to accommodate novice hikers. This will be a leisure trip to enjoy the cool water in the heat of the summer.

September 8

Canoe Float on the Duck River State Scenic River adjacent to the Duck River Complex Natural Area

Location: Meet at the Target parking area at Old Hickory Blvd. and I-65 in Brentwood. Transportation for the first 10 people to sign up will be provided.

Date: September 8th, 2007.

Time: 9:00 a.m. CDT

Leader: Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas.

Reservations required: RSVP by September 6th to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431 or forrest.evans@state.tn.us. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of free van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

Description: Come join us as we enjoy the cool waters of the Duck River on a warm summer day. We will be on a very flat and easy stretch of river from Leftwich Bridge to the new TWRA take out at Howard Bridge. This stretch of the river has a gentle current and no real rapids, and will take about 4 hours to float. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn to canoe. Participants are welcome to bring their own canoe or kayak, but will have to provide their own transportation if they do. Canoes can be rented at a special discount of \$10 per person or \$20 per canoe through a local canoe vendor. Our put in point is about a 45-minute drive south of Nashville on I-65. Bring lunch and water and maybe a change of clothes.

September 29

National Public Lands Day September 29. For a list of events your contact for East Tennessee is Lisa Huff at 865 594-5601 Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us, Middle Tennessee - Forrest Evans 615 741- 9205 Forrest.Evans@state.tn.us, and West Tennessee – Chad Harden 731 512- 1369 Charles.Harden@state.tn.us

Trail Maintenance at House Mountain State Natural Area

Location: House Mountain State Natural Area

Date: Saturday, September 29, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m. EDT

Leader: Lisa Huff, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Sponsors: Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Natural Areas Program

Reservations: Required. RSVP to Lisa Huff by September 26th at (865) 594-5601 or E-mail at Lisa.Huff@state.tn.us.

Description: Come out and learn the proper techniques for building and maintaining trails while also helping take care of one of Knox County's most popular recreation areas. We'll work on sections of the Mountain Trail to repair and widen trail tread, fix switchbacks, nailing up boundary markers and trail blazes, and many other jobs. All tools will be provided, but volunteers must wear long pants and bring work gloves. Also bring plenty of water to drink and a lunch and snacks as necessary. We'll be working under the forest canopy, so it won't be directly

sunny where we are. We'll work from about 10 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m. with a long break for lunch and rest breaks.

October 13

Carter State Natural Area and Buggytop Cave

Location: Meet at the Target store parking lot off of Bell Road near Hickory Hollow

Date: October 13th, 2007.

Time: 7:00 a.m. CDT

Leader: Forrest Evans, Stewardship Ecologist, Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage.

Reservations required: RSVP by October 11th to Forrest Evans, 615-532-0431 or forrest.evans@state.tn.us. The first 10 reservations can take advantage of free van transportation provided by the Tennessee Natural Areas Program.

Description: Journey through the fall beauty of one of Tennessee's scenic natural areas, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Carter Natural Area. We will hike to Buggytop Cave which is rated strenuous for the elevation change, and then enter the cave on the lower end and hike a half-mile through the cave to a different exit. We will not go if it is raining or it is predicted to rain. Consult the weather reports before the trip. Dress warmly, bring at least two sources of light, a helmet is optional; wear sturdy boots, and bring plenty of water and lunch.

October 13

Native Plant Seed Collection on the Murfreesboro Greenway

Location: Murfreesboro, TN, at Stones River National Battlefield at the General Bragg Headquarters Site. See <http://www.nps.gov/stri/> for directions and maps

(<http://www.nps.gov/stri/planyourvisit/maps.htm>)

Date: October 13, 2007

Time: 9-11:30 CDT

Leader: Please contact Rachel Anderson at the Murfreesboro Discovery Center for more information (615) 890-2300 randersondisccenter@comcast.net

Description: Help the National Park Service, Discovery Center, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Areas restore the Murfreesboro Greenway by collecting native plant seeds.